

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 14th November 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Cllr D Fletcher, Cllr N Hignett, Cllr M Trow, Cllr R Evans, Cllr A Hodges, Cllr D Gregory, Cllr P Heywood, Cllr C Sandells, Cllr A Windows, Cllr D Jones and Cllr N Lewis

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

In attendance: Three members of the public

Before the meeting began, Cllr Fletcher called for one minute's silence in memory of Margaret Beckett, a previous parish councillor and sent condolences to Margaret's family on behalf of the parish council.

134.22 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from, Cllr S Davies and Cllr J Pritchard. After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Sandells, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED that Apologies for Absence be approved.**

135.22 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations. None.

136.22 Public Questions and Comments. The Treasurer of Pontesbury Bowling Club gave a brief verbal report about the Bowling Club and the request for funding to be discussed under Agenda item 9. The club will be 100 years old in 2023 and the existing floodlights are not fit for purpose and so the club would like to replace them with LED lights. There are no fixed quotes at present and the club has raised £570 so far. The Club does have some funds but these are earmarked for renovating the green and servicing mowers. Various Cllrs gave the Treasurer ideas of possible funding sources.

137.22 Minutes of Council. The minutes were submitted and circulated as read. After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Heywood, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council, held on 10th October 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

138.22 Police Matters

Cllr Fletcher gave a brief update from the meeting with PC Lewis on Friday 21st October which was **NOTED** which was felt to have been useful by Cllrs that attended. PC Lewis was happy to repeat the meeting at a future date.

Cllr Lewis expressed disappointment that there was not a police presence at the Remembrance service and a member of the public had had to stop traffic. This posed a health and safety concern.

139.22 Shropshire Council Member report. Cllr Evans gave a verbal report, including the following information, which was **NOTED.**

- SC will not receive cash from 1/4/2023, including in car parks.
- SC currently spends £33.5million/year on waste collection and disposal and therefore wishes to encourage people to reduce waste from individual homes.
- SC did not make a bid under Investment Zones funding
- a grant of £1million has been received by SC for EV charging points
- SC will be spending £30million on cost of living support
- Six schools in the county are creating Safe Streets around the school
- Car park charges will be increasing at the end of October 2022
- Free school meal vouchers scheme has been extended to the end of Spring 2023 term
- There is a constituency boundary consultation at present
- Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury has agreed to take in Ukranian refugees
- SC are looking at a waste heating scheme at Battlefield

140.22 Planning Committee.

- After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the planning meeting held on 7th October 2022.**
- Cllr Hodges gave a verbal report which was **NOTED.**
- Planning application 22/04384/ADV (One Stop Shop – display fascia and panels) was considered. After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Lewis, all in favour except Cllr Gregory who abstained) it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following comments be submitted to Shropshire Council planning portal:**
The parish council support this application with the provisos that there are no adverts on the gable end and that any illuminated signs are turned off when the shop is closed.
- It was **NOTED** that the Planning Pre-application and Late Application policies as prepared by Deputy Clerk, had been approved by the Planning Committee (available on the parish council website)

141.22 Statutory Business and Finance

- Receipts of £1059.36 (All parish council accounts) was **NOTED.**
- After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE all payments on payments list for November 2022 (payments list attached to minutes).**
- Quarter 2 (2022-23) bank reconciliation, as prepared by Clerk was received and **NOTED.**
- Quarter 2 (2022-23) budget monitoring report, as prepared by Clerk was received and **NOTED.**
- A verbal report from Cllr Trow stating that there were no matters arising from Internal Checks for Quarter 2 (2022-23) was **NOTED.** Cllr Fletcher thanked Cllr Trow for her hard work in the role of Internal Checker
- the NJC pay awards for 2022-23 to be backdated to 1 April 2022 was **NOTED.**

142.22. Request for funding from Pontesbury Bowling Club: Following discussion Clerk was asked to write to the Treasurer of the Bowling Club that as the parish council funding for community groups is limited, where a Club can seek funding from other sources, they should make every effort to. Once firm quotes have been gained and other sources contacted, then the parish council may consider a request for a small amount of top up funding.

143.22 Cost of Living Increases – Council received updates from the Good Neighbours Scheme about their various activities and local Church foodbank initiatives. and This will continue to be an agenda item. Cllrs wished to send a letter of thanks to the GNS for all their hard work. Cllr Hignett reported that SC had created a ‘cost of living support’ website, a toolkit for councillors and a map of Warm Hubs, across the county where residents can meet and light refreshments and sometimes activities take place. There will be ‘Warm Hub’ mornings at The Pavilion on Mondays 10am-12pm from 5th December, as well as other warm hub activities in the village run by the local Churches Together volunteers.

144.22 Land behind the Trading Post – Councillors considered a request from a resident on Station Road to lease some land behind the Trading Post, which is currently an eyesore and would provide additional garden space. This land is currently leased by the parish council for 125 years, from Shropshire Council. Following a discussion and after a proposal by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that the council were unable to sub-let the land without recourse to legal costs and so the land would be retained by the parish council but in response to the neighbours concerns, it would be tidied up by the parish council.**

145.22 Health and Safety Matters. None to report

Cllr Gregory asked when the next Emergency Planning meeting would be held. This would be arranged shortly.

146.22 Poles Coppice

- a. The management report for Poles Coppice was received from Shropshire Council Officers. Cllr Gregory reported feedback that local residents were really enjoying the platform that had been installed. It was agreed that another site visit or community open day in Spring 2023 would be welcomed. Clerk would contact relevant SC Officer.
- b. After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Sandells, (Cllr Windows abstained) it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a grant of £2000 towards management of Poles Coppice for 2023-24.**

147.22 Play Area Working Group – a working group was set up to include Cllrs Fletcher, Gregory, Windows, Lewis and Jones and possibly interested members of public. Clerk would put something in the newsletter inviting people to join the group.

148.22 Rea Valley Rural Watch - Cllr Gregory reported that the West Mercia Rural Crime Officer was asking for local areas to set up Rural Watch groups. Following interest from councillors, Cllr Gregory would contact the Officer and ask for more details so that a Rea Valley wide Rural Watch could be set up. The item would be included on the December meeting agenda for next steps.

149.22 Littering – Cllr Fletcher gave a verbal update from a meeting with SC Streetscene Officer covering the area which was **NOTED**. The Officer had outlined his role and litter issues and was happy to support a Minsterley/Pontesbury/Hanwood litter pick, providing equipment. The Parish Council would be sent a map of litter bins in the Pontesbury Parish area so that further allocations in problem areas could be monitored by the Parish Council. Clerk was asked to write and thank you the officer for a very fruitful meeting and to invite local volunteers who help pick litter to the thank you event at the Pavilion on 1/12/22.

150.22 Clerk's report - Clerk gave a verbal update which was **NOTED**. There would be a thank you event for parish volunteers on 1/12/22 2.30-3.30pm and councillors were encouraged to attend.

151.22 Parish Business – the following concerns were raised

- The SC report function on their website, linked to FixMyStreet was praised as any Cllr reporting a SC issue would get automatic updates on how the matter was progressing and being dealt with.
- Malehurst Bridge repairs were raised as although the road had been closed the repairs were not completed. Cllr Hignett would follow this up
- Concerns were raised about road closure and diversion signs being misleading. Cllrs Hignett and Evans were meeting with SC officers to investigate.
- The fence posts at the bottom of Hall Bank were reported as being insecure and concerns raised about the state of the new hedging plants. Cllrs Lewis/Fletcher and Clerk would look into it
- Cllr Hignett would investigate what had happened following the damage to St George's wall
- Clerk had received a letter from the resident who looks after the flower beds to say that he would retire as of May 2023. Clerk was asked to write to thank the gentleman and take up his offer of consultancy help with whoever takes over.

152.22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

The next Full Parish Council meeting will take place at The Pavilion on Monday 12th December 2022 at the winter time of 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.14pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: